



MONTANA  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Supporting Montana's libraries  
from the mountains to the prairies

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HB 2

## Montana Library Association

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### Legislative Priorities

- **Montana State Library Budget**

*The multitude of services at the State Library extend far beyond the walls in Helena. The libraries in Montana would not be able to serve their patrons without all of the services, programs, and support from the State Library. This small agency manages their budget scrupulously and utilizes funding to best serve libraries, library patrons, private sector businesses, teachers, and students across Montana.*

**Fully fund the Montana State Library Budget as requested by the agency.**

- **Early Childhood and Family Literacy Position at the Montana State Library**

*Librarians are one of the greatest advocates and resources for early childhood learning in Montana. Libraries have programming specifically for children from birth to school age as well as age appropriate materials for our youngest learners and resources for their parents and caregivers. Currently the State Library assists public libraries in their early childhood learning endeavours with a ¼ time position; however, there is a need for additional support, additional education, and additional resources. By increasing the Early Childhood and Family Literacy position to 1 FTE, the childhood learning and literacy programs across the state would better meet the needs of the youngest patrons in Montana.*

**Increase the Early Childhood and Family Literacy Position at the State Library from a ¼ time position to 1 FTE. The amount to fund this position is \$68,000. With this increase the State Library is still below the 3% budgetary increase threshold established by the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.**

- **Per Capita/Per Square Mile State Aid funding for Libraries**

*During the 2013 legislative session, the Montana Legislature increased the state aid funding for the 82 public libraries in Montana from .10 cents per person to .40 cents per person. The legislature placed a sunset clause on the increased funding - the increase is set to expire June 30, 2017. Librarians can use the funds at their discretion to meet the needs of their library, their community and their patrons. Libraries have used the funds to purchase updated technology, add to their community programming, increase their print and digital collections, extend their operating hours, and supplement their early learning and childhood literacy programs.*

**Thank you for supporting the per capita/per square mile state aid increase for public libraries. The funds positively impacted every public library in Montana.**